UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1783
30 November 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General warns Bosnian parties to cooperate with UNPROFOR in order to retain United Nations presence ; expresses disappointment at Bosnian Serb leader's failure to meet him in Sarajevo.

+ Security Council extends UNAMIR mandate for six months until 9 June 1995; decides mission will also contribute to security of International Criminal Tribunal personnel; help establish national police force.

+ Council condemns former Rwandan leaders for preventing repatriation of refugees in camps, particularly in Zaire; requests Secretary-General to consult troop contributors about potential peace-keeping operation.

+ In a presidential statement, Security Council calls on all States to take necessary steps to promote peace in Afghanistan and prevent continued flow of weapons and military supplies to warring parties.

+ Security Council in presidential statement, calls on Bosnian Serbs to accept proposed cease-fire in Bihac to be followed by a cease-fire throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina; welcomes Bosnian Government's acceptance of that proposal.

+ General Assembly establishes ad hoc intergovernmental working group to study principle of 'capacity to pay' as the fundamental criterion in determining assessments to United Nations regular budget.

+ Secretary-General says 1995 is opportunity for States to reaffirm faith in values on which United Nations is based and recall commitment to peace, development, democracy and human rights.

+ Special Political and Decolonization Committee approves 10 draft resolutions on issues concerning UNRWA and on report of Special Committee on Israeil Practices in occupied territories.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed disappointment and surprise at the refusal of Bosnian Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic to meet with him today at Sarajevo airport. In a statement, the Secretary-General said he believed Dr. Karadzic had done his people a great disservice by that action. Earlier, the Secretary-General met with Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic for two hours and they had a frank exchange on the effectiveness of United Nations operations. They also discussed specific action to bring the military situation under control and create conditions for negotiations towards a political settlement.

The Secretary-General said his purpose in coming to Sarajevo was to convey a simple message to both sides. If the Bosnian leaders wanted to retain United Nations assistance and support in ending the war, they must first show a readiness to negotiate and work in good faith to find a common ground. Secondly, they must cooperate with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). He warned that unless UNPROFOR was able to carry out its mandate it would be impossible for him to persuade the Security Council to keep it in the former Yugoslavia.

Because of Dr. Karadzic's failure to meet with him, the Secretary-General said he had been unable to press the Bosnian Serb leader to lift the "unacceptable restrictions" being placed on UNPROFOR's personnel and convoys, including the resupply of the Bangladeshi Battalion in Bihac. Another concern was the Bosnian Serb deployment of anti-aircraft systems which were impeding the humanitarian airlift. Concluding, the Secretary-General called on the Bosnian leaders to live up to their responsibilities and make it possible for the international community to help them bring peace to their peoples.

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The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) for a further six months until 9 June 1995. In unanimously adopting resolution 965 (1994) the Council reaffirmed that UNAMIR would continue to contribute to the security and protection of displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk in the country, including through the establishment and maintenance of secure humanitarian areas; the distribution of relief supplies and humanitarian operations. UNAMIR would also exercise its good offices to help achieve national reconciliation within the framework of the Arusha Peace Agreement.

The Council also decided to expand UNAMIR's mandate to include responsibility for contributing to the security of personnnel of the International Criminal Tribunal and human rights officers, including full time protection for the Prosecutor's office. The Mission would also assist in the establishment and training of a new, integrated national police force. The Council strongly urged the Rwandan Government to continue cooperating with UNAMIR in the implementation of its mandate and in particular in ensuring unimpeded access to all areas in the country by UNAMIR forces, personnel of the International Tribunal and human rights officers.

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The Council called on the international community to provide resources needed to meed the immediate needs of the Government directly or through the Trust Fund established by its resolution 925 (1994). It also requested the Secretary-General to report to it on UNAMIR's discharge of its mandate, the safety of populations at risk, the humanitarian situation and progess towards repatriation of refugees. It also asked him to recommend possible steps that the United Nations could take to promote effective mine clearance.

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The Security Council tonight condemned the actions being taken by the former Rwandan leaders, government forces and militia to prevent the repatriation of the refugees in the camps, particularly in Zaire. It also condemned the ongoing interference by those groups in the provision of humanitarian relief. In a statement by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States) the Council expressed deep concern that the interference had already led to the withdrawal of some non-governmental agencies responsible for the distribution of relief supplies within the camps.

The Council said it was alarmed at indications that those same groups and individuals might be preparing for an armed invasion of Rwanda. It deplored the fact that food distributed by relief agencies for those in the camps was apparently being misappropriated for that purpose. The Council condemned all such actions and warned that they would only reinforce the determination of the international community to ensure that they are brought to justice.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to consult troop contributing countries to assess their willingness to participate in a potential peace-keeping operation to create secure areas in the refugee camps. It also requested the Secretary-General to provide a detailed description of the rules of engagement, objectives and costs of such an operation as soon as possible

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Also this evening, the Security Council called on all States to take the necessary steps to promote peace in Afghanistan. It also called on them to prevent the continued flow of weapons, ammunition and military supplies to the warring parties in Afghanistan and to put an end to the destructive conflict in that country. In a Presidential statement by Madeleine Albright (United States) the Council supported the Special Mission to Afghanistan led by Special Representative Mahmoud Mestiri, and its broad-based consultations with Afghan representatives. It also supported its proposals to bring about an end to factional fighting, institute a process of political reconciliation and begin the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

The Security Council welcomed the acceptance by the warring parties and other Afghan representatives of a step-by-step process of national reconciliation through the establishment of a fully representative and broad-based Authoritative Council which would: negotiate and oversee a ceasefire; establish a national security force to collect and safeguard heavy weapons and provide for security throughout the country; and form a

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transitional government to lay the groundwork for a democratically chosen government, possibly utilizing traditional decision-making structures such as a Grand Assembly.

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The Security Council last night called on the Bosnian Serbs to accept a proposed cease-fire in the Bihac region, to be followed by a cease-fire throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, it welcomed the Bosnian Government's acceptance of that proposal. In a statement last night by its President Madeleine Albright (United States), the Council said it remained determined to fully support the efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the conflict consistent with its previous resolutions and the proposals of the Contact Group - the United states, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

The Council expressed its support for the efforts of United Nations officials to stabilize the situation in and around the safe area of Bihac. It noted with satisfaction the proposal put to the parties by the United Nations officials for an immediate and unconditional cease-fire in the Bihac region to be followed by a cease-fire throughout Bosnia; the interposition of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Bihac safe area; a complete demilitarization of the safe area involving the withdrawal of all military forces and the opening of corridors for humanitarian relief.

The Council expressed its support for the Secretary-General's trip to Sarajevo today, and demanded that all parties and others concerned cooperate fully with his efforts to stabilize the situation in and around the safe area of Bihac and throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensure the security of UNPROFOR as it implements its mandate.

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The year 1995 should be an opportunity for every Member State to reaffirm its faith in the values on which the United Nations was based and recall its commitment to peace, development, democracy and human rights, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros said yesterday. The Secretary-General was addressing the opening in Marrakech of the second session of the Advisory Group for the preparation of the United Nations fiftieth anniversary.

The Secretary-General said that taking stock of the past and charting prospects for the future was particularly important as the world had witnessed great upheavals in a short period of time. In a sense, the United Nations was a magnifying mirror of international public opinion, reflecting the aspirations and anxieties of States and peoples. At times that generated confused and contradictory feelings towards the Organization.

The Advisory Group must respond by first making clear that the principles of the United Nations Charter were the only foundation on which to build the

international society of the future. The anniversary was also a time to share ideas on how the Organization's actions could be brought further into line with the requirements and needs of today's world.

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The General Assembly yesterday established an ad hoc intergovernmental working group to study the principle of 'capacity to pay' as the fundamental criterion in determining the scale of assessments for contributions to the Organization's regular budget. By the terms of the resolution, adopted without a vote, the Assembly decided that the group of experts in economics, finance and statistics and related fields would submit a report by 15 May 1995 and that it would be funded within existing financial resources.

The Assembly adopted a second resolution, also without a vote, which appropriated to the Special Account for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) more than $163 million gross for operations from 5 April to 9 December 1994. The Assembly apportioned an additional $100.7 million gross for the period 5 April to 9 December.

Also yesterday, as it began consideration of the question of Palestine, the Assembly was told that extremism and political instability was widespread in the Middle East because of the slow progress in the peace process. The observer for Palestine said Israel's intransigent attitude led to the belief that it did not wish to establish a comprehensive and just peace. Israel said while events and agreements were leading the Palestinians to assume responsibility for their own lives, groups such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad continued to embrace violence, aimed at derailing peace, stability and development. Assistance from the donor countries was crucial.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) today approved draft resolutions on a wide range of issues concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). It also approved drafts on the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

By one of three drafts on the report of the Special Committee, the Assembly would commend the Committee for its impartiality and demand that Israel cooperate with it. It would deplore Israel's policies and practices which violate the human rights of the Palestinian and other Arabs in the occupied territories. The Special Committee would be asked to continue to ensure that the welfare and human rights of those under occupation were safeguarded.

By a text on Israeli practices in the occupied territories, the Assembly would reaffirm that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal and an obstacle to a comprehensive settlement. It would call on Israel to facilitate the return of the remaining deportees to the occupied

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Palestinian territory and to accelerate the release of all remaining Palestinians arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.

By one of seven draft resolutions on UNRWA, the Assembly would ask the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to protect Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel

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